

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Mitchell Road

Site Code S.USCOHP*22309

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1081 Site Class PCA
Site Alias None

Network of Conservation Areas (NCA)

<u>NCA Site ID</u>	<u>NCA Site Code</u>	<u>NCA Site Name</u>
-		No Data

LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 392217N
State Colorado Longitude 1085714W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
39108-C8	Badger Wash
39108-D8	Carbonera

County

Mesa (CO)
Garfield (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14010005	Colorado headwaters-Plateau

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	4,938.00	Feet	1,505.00	Meters
Maximum Elevation	5,377.00	Feet	1,639.00	Meters

Site Description

This site lies within the saltbush fans and flats characteristic of areas south of the Bookcliffs and possesses a large percentage of bareground. It contains gently rolling hills of light gray clay soils derived from Mancos shale and covered by desert shrubs. Between the hills lie shallow draws and swales dominated by shortgrasses. Several drainages that are dry most of the year run generally south to West Salt Creek. Two pipelines pass through the site, and Mitchell Road and Baxter Pass Roads form the north and west boundaries. Vegetation is salt desert shrubland dominated by shadscale (*Atriplex confertifolia*), Gardner saltbush (*A. gardneri*), with a substantial amount of bare soil. Other common plants are pretty buckwheat (*Eriogonum bicolor*), snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*), and Prince's plume (*Stanleya pinnata*). Major weed species in the site are cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) and Jim Hill mustard (*Sisymbrium altissimum*). In some areas the grass understory is dominated by cheatgrass. The is entirely on BLM land and is managed for livestock grazing. Substrata of the area consists of unconsolidated alluvial and gravel deposits of the Quaternary period and older sedimentary deposits of Mancos shale from the Cretaceous period. There are recent observations of a rare plant, mammal, and lizard, together with past records of a rare plant community.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

Historically and at present this site is extensively grazed by livestock, although lack of water resources has prevented and will continue to prevent conversion of the area to agricultural cropland.

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 11/14/2000
Designer Sovell, J.R. and M.J. Lyon

Boundary Justification

The boundary was drawn to include a collection of rare species, but particularly the Grand buckwheat of which three subpopulations are included, as well as nearby occurrences of the longnose leopard lizard and white-tail prairie dog. The habitat of all three species is the salt desert shrub community below the Bookcliffs. Adjacent habitat not included in the boundary may support expansion of the buckwheat population and

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particularly the prairie dog colonies and are of equal value.

Primary Area 2,159.04 Acres 873.74 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of Grand buckwheat (*Eriogonum contortum*) which is vulnerable on a global scale (G3/S2).

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

No Data

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

No Data

Offsite

No Data

Information Needs

No Data

ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

<u>Element</u>			<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
<u>State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>			
22665	<i>Cynomys leucurus</i>	White-tailed Prairie Dog	G4	S4	No
18559	<i>Eriogonum contortum</i>	grand buckwheat	G3	S2	Yes
24655	<i>Atriplex confertifolia</i> / <i>Leymus salinus</i> Shrubland	Cold Desert Shrublands	G3G5	S3	No
18312	<i>Gambelia wislizenii</i>	Longnose Leopard Lizard	G5	S1	No
18312	<i>Gambelia wislizenii</i>	Longnose Leopard Lizard	G5	S1	No
22665	<i>Cynomys leucurus</i>	White-tailed Prairie Dog	G4	S4	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
-	No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	11/14/2000
Version Author	Sovell, J.R. and M.J. Lyon

Disclaimer

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